



Read Kansas!

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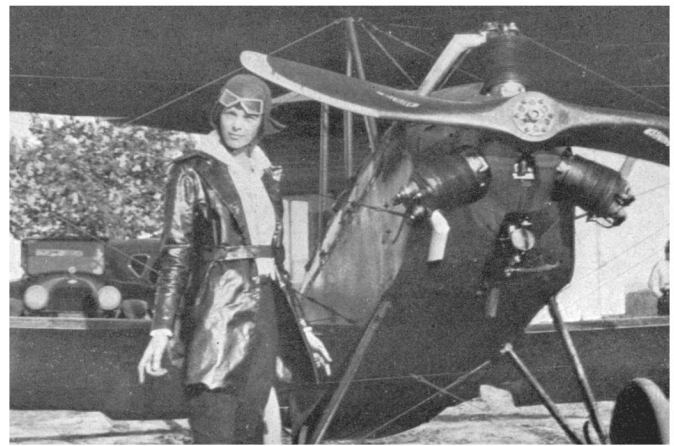
By the Kansas State Historical Society

Famous Kansan



Amelia Earhart
1897-1937

Amelia Earhart loved adventure and she loved to explore. Earhart did not understand why some games were for boys and some were for girls. Earhart and her sister wanted to play the boys' games. They once built their own roller coaster from the roof of a shed. Even though she crashed at the bottom, Earhart said it made her feel like she was flying!



When Amelia Earhart first saw an airplane she was not excited. Later she got to ride in one at an air show. After that she was interested! Earhart decided to take flying lessons. As a birthday present for herself Earhart bought her own airplane. There were very few women pilots at the time. Right away she started setting records as a pilot. Earhart was invited to fly across the Atlantic, but only as a passenger. She made the trip and was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic. But, Earhart wanted to fly her own airplane across the ocean. Five years later she did just that. Amelia Earhart was the first woman pilot to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.

Most pilots of the time were men. Amelia Earhart became a symbol for women around the world. She traveled around the country and told about her adventures. She reminded women that they could do anything that men could do.

Amelia Earhart liked to explore. One thing Earhart wanted to do was to fly her own airplane around the world. She and her navigator planned a route along the equator. That was the longest way to fly around the world. No one had ever attempted to do that before. The first part of their trip went well. However, the last part of the trip ended in tragedy. Nobody knows for certain what happened. Amelia Earhart, her navigator, and her airplane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean.



Many of the records set by Amelia Earhart were "firsts" for everyone, not just for women. She was the first pilot to fly alone from Hawaii to the United States mainland. Even today, Amelia Earhart is one of the most famous pilots in the world.